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*** * * * * PRESS RELEASE * * * * ***

572943

Release Number

September 6, 2016

Release Date

**JAVIER CHANG AND NOE LEON CONVICTED OF
ASSAULTS AND DISSUADING A WITNESS –
BOTH ADMIT GANG ENHANCEMENTS**

Approved By

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SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA, September 6, 2016 – On September 1, 2016, a San Luis Obispo Jury convicted defendants Javier Chang (DOB 9/10/95) and Noe Leon (DOB 9/27/91) of felony assault with a deadly weapon, a shoe, in violation of Penal Code (PC) section 245(a)(1), and felony aggravated assault in violation of PC section 245(a)(4) on the adult male victim who was repeatedly kicked and punched by a group of men in Nipomo on January 22, 2015. Noe Leon was also convicted of felony dissuading a witness in violation of PC section 136.1(c)(1), based on his threat to the victim that matters would get worse for him and his family if the victim reported the beating to the police.

Before a final phase of the trial today, in Department 6 of the Superior Court, both Chang and Leon admitted to Hon. Judge John Trice that the assault with a deadly weapon was done for the benefit of a criminal street gang, in violation of PC 186.22(b)(1). This is called a “gang enhancement” that adds state prison time to the possible final sentence. At today’s hearing, Chang also pled no contest to an additional charge of assault with a deadly weapon, a bottle, on which the Jury was unable to agree last week.

Both defendants are being held without bail pending their sentencing on 10/25/16 before Superior Court Judge John A. Trice in Department 6. This case was investigated by the San Luis Obispo Sheriff’s Department, and prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Greg Devitt.

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